

NIH ABBREVIATIONS

CC: NIH Clinical Center
CIT: Center for Information Technology
FAES: Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences
FelCom: Fellows Committee
IRP: Intramural Research Program
HHS: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
NCCAM: National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine
NCI: National Cancer Institute
NEI: National Eye Institute
NHGRI: National Human Genome Research Institute
NHLBI: National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
NIA: National Institute on Aging
NIAAA: National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism
NIAID: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
NIAMS: National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases
NIBIB: National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering
NICHD: Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development
NIDA: National Institute on Drug Abuse
NIHDC: National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders
NIDCR: National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research
NIDDK: National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
NIEHS: National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
NIGMS: National Institute of General Medical Sciences
NIMH: National Institute of Mental Health
NIMHD: National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities
NINDS: National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke
NINR: National Institute of Nursing Research
NLM: National Library of Medicine
OD: Office of the Director
OITE: Office of Intramural Training and Education
OIR: Office of Intramural Research

INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE NEW MEMBERS

- Jeremy M. Berg, Ph.D., Director, NIGMS
- Linda S. Birnbaum, Ph.D., Director, NIEHS
- Ira H. Pastan, M.D., Chief, Laboratory of Cell Biology, Center for Cancer Research, NCI
- Thomas E. Wellems, M.D., Ph.D., Chief, Laboratory of Malaria and Vector Research, NIAID
- Carl Wu, Ph.D., Chief, Laboratory of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Center for Cancer Research, NCI

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Bioinformatics at the NIH Library

BY REX ROBISON, NIH LIBRARY

“THERE’S AN ANGRY MOB OUTSIDE,” AN EVENTS management coordinator told Medha Bhagwat as she was about to introduce the instructor for her bioinformatics class in a filled-to-capacity conference room several months ago. “You’d better show your face. People are demanding an explanation.”

There were more than 50 anxious people outside the room, wondering why they weren’t being allowed in. “When I walked out I took a deep breath,” Bhagwat recalls. “I had to tell them I appreciated their coming, but there was no more room.”

Now the NIH Library, which has trained some 1,300 researchers in its Bioinformatics Support Program since September 2009, knows to hold certain sessions in bigger auditoriums (such as Building 10’s Lipsett Amphitheater, which seats 260).

Bioinformatics is the intersection of biology, computer science, and mathematics. It provides researchers with powerful tools to analyze a variety of data. Bhagwat, an informationist and bioinformatics specialist, used to work at the National Center for Biotechnology Information and started the NIH Library’s program a year ago. She teaches courses in sequence analysis, genome browsers, identification of pathogenic mutations, and more. She also offers one-on-one consultations and online tutorials and sometimes invites outside trainers to give presentations about their products. The more advanced courses are held in the NIH Library’s state-of-the-art training room, where students are provided laptops to try out exercises on their own. And, to help meet the demand, the NIH Library recently hired Lynn Young to provide more programming support for high-throughput data analysis, especially for microarray and next-generation sequencing data. Young was formerly at NCI-Frederick and CIT’s Division of Computational Bioscience.

The library also provides bioinformatics software tools that are useful for retrieving and mining relevant literature, visualizing pathways, and identifying research targets, and it recently licensed software for next-generation sequence analysis. And there are two dedicated computers loaded with bioinformatics resources for NIH staff to use.

For more information about the NIH Library Bioinformatics Support Program, registering for free classes, getting accounts for licensed tools, and finding links to online tutorials, visit <http://nihlibrary.nih.gov/ResearchTools/Pages/Bioinformatics.aspx>. ●



Medha Bhagwat’s bioinformatics training sessions used to be held in small conference rooms, but they have become so popular that many are now held in larger auditoriums like Lipsett Amphitheater.



A wordle, or word cloud, filled with comments about the NIH Library’s bioinformatics training.